

24 APR 1952 2-8425

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Proposal for a Panel of Statistical Consultants
and Permission to Contact

1. Problem

To establish in ORR a Panel of Statistical Consultants who can advise this Office in the exploitation of quantitative intelligence data.

2. Discussion

There is a great deal of information in ORR about quantitative matters (production rates, trade shipments, stockpiles, etc.) which we have been able to handle quantitatively to date because the samples are very small. It is our conviction that a great many more quantitative estimates of important magnitude could be made with some assurance if really powerful statistical techniques were applied to the fragmentary data we have. The degree of statistical knowledge and wisdom required cannot be obtained in full-time employees. Therefore, we propose a Panel of people highly expert in this field to guide the work of the less brilliant statisticians we can get on our staff.

This group would also tackle the vital problem of how to determine and express margins of error in the very erratic information we have. It is anticipated that the Panel, if approved, will be called upon at least four times a year.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that approval be granted to the establishment of a Statistical Consulting Panel and that permission be granted to approach [redacted] as a possible member of the Panel. (See Tab A)

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[redacted]
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

Approved (disapproved)-subject to security clearance

SIGNED

WALTER B. SMITH
Director

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